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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
15 June 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in the Dominican Republic
(Report #277 -- As of 7:00 am EDT)

There have been no reports of major disturbances yesterday or last night in the Dominican interior, though extremists among the rebels continue to call for the extension of the revolution into the countryside and provincial towns and cities.

Tight loyalist security measures continue throughout the country and will probably be maintained at least through the end of this week.

There was a minor skirmish between the police and Communist elements in Santiago yesterday afternoon. A group of some 12 Communist agitators threw rocks at a police patrol. The police then fired into the air to disperse the agitators. There were no injuries and only one arrest. The prompt police action may have discouraged a reported Communist plan to hold a demonstration later in the afternoon that was to feature the burning of a US flag.

In Santo Domingo itself yesterday an automobile carrying several civilians inexplicably exploded and a reported seven people were killed. This incident took place deep in loyalist-held territory near the cemetery that was the scene of serious fighting in mid-May. There is as yet no evidence to support the suspicion that this was the work of rebel infiltrators.

For the first time, Latin American elements of the Inter-American Peace Force came under rebel fire early yesterday morning. The Brazilian marines were under fire for about half an hour at their positions on the southeastern edge of the International Security Zone. They returned the fire and suffered no casualties.

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The biggest event yesterday was the rebel rally commemorating the sixth anniversary of the abortive Cuban-backed invasion. The embassy estimates that some 8,000 people participated. This was a big crowd for Santo Domingo, but not as large a crowd as the Imbert government was able to bring together for its rally on Sunday. A strong current of anti-US exhortation ran through the speeches and was echoed by the crowd, with such cries as "death to the Yankees." The OAS was also hit hard. All speakers called for the continuation of the struggle without compromise.

The rally provided another demonstration of the growing influence of the Communists and pro-Communists as well as of the seemingly feeble efforts by non-Communist rebel leaders to resist, or at least to downplay, this influence. Government leaders evidently refused to permit extremist groups at the rally to display their customary banners. Nevertheless, the propaganda material passed out during the occasion was clearly of Communist origin and two of the eight principal speakers were leaders of Communist groups.

The pro-Castro Fourteenth of June Political Group (APCJ) was represented on the speakers' stand by one of its top leaders, Rafael Tavares. He spoke for nearly an hour and ended by calling for the extension of the war into the countryside. "Through war, we can impose our will," he said. He declared that the Dominican Republic has now entered the "final stage of the national liberation movement" and that it is therefore important to engage in armed struggle against the "Yankee invaders."

The Marxist-Leninist Dominican Popular Movement (MPD) was also heard at the rally, although the speaker did not identify his affiliation. Identified only as a student leader, the MPD's Narcisco Gonzalez led off the rally with a bitterly critical "message" to President Johnson.

Other speakers included rebel leader Caamano and representatives of the Revolutionary Social Christian Party and Juan Bosch's Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD). Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, speaking for the PRD, took pains to try to counteract the Communist

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flavor of the preceeding speeches. In eulogizing the martyrs of 14 June 1959 he pointed out these men had not come to the Dominican Republic to set up a Communist regime. On the contrary, he declared, "they were backed by Dominican politicians of all trends who were united on behalf of the fatherland." Pena Gomez then went on to point out that his party has always supported the principles of representative democracy.

Further evidence that the APCJ is not subject to the discipline of the Caamano government was apparent in the contrast between the APCJ position at the rally and yesterday's headline of the newspaper La Nacion, which is apparently Caamano's mouthpiece. The paper headlined: "President says he will not permit a Communist regime."

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